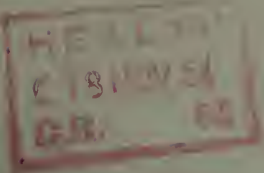


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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT  
Herefordshire

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

on the  
State of the Public Health  
for the year 1953.

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Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health.

I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H.,  
D.T.M. & H.,

Sanitary Inspector.

S.D. CROWLE, M.S.I.A.,

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1953 is presented herewith.

A noteworthy feature of the health of the community throughout the year has been the relative freedom from notifiable infectious disease. Only five cases occurred and, of these, four were due to Scarlet Fever. The continuing complete absence of Poliomyelitis from our midst for the twenty-third successive year is a source of pleasure to us all.

There are twenty-three persons residing in the Urban District who are known to be suffering from tuberculosis. Variation in the number from year to year is very slight; and the substantial increase in the total number of known cases in North Herefordshire as a whole, is not reflected in Urban records.

The work carried out this year to increase the efficiency of the Sewage Disposal Plant, is, as the Sanitary Inspector indicates on page 3 of the report, likely to bring about some improvement in the quality of the effluent as well as facilitating day to day maintenance. More than that is not to be expected because the plant was designed and erected about 80 years ago, long before the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal fixed standards for the amount of purification required. Nothing short of complete reconstruction of the plant could produce an effluent of the required quality.

It should not be overlooked that Kington has been far in advance of many other Urban districts by providing a sewage works at a time when the need of them was not generally recognised by those smaller towns which were conveniently situated, as Kington is, near to a fair-sized river into which raw sewage could be discharged. Kington therefore deserves congratulation and commendation for what was done in the past. Criticism, because the effluent does not conform to a standard that had not been defined when the Improvement Commission - the controlling body that preceeded the Urban Council - took action to prevent the pollution of the Arrow by untreated sewage, should be mellowed by the recognition of the progressive and public-spirited outlook of the townsfolk who authorised the construction of the existing works so many years ago. Nevertheless it has been our duty, as officials, to draw the Council's attention during the year to the implications of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951 and to recommend as an interim measure, pending the grant of substantial financial assistance for the suggested £30,000 new works, the construction of a screening tank which it is hoped will effect some improvement in the quality of the effluent.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have pleasure in acknowledging our indebtedness to the Chairman (Mr. C.B. Llewellyn) and Members of the Committee for the interest consistently taken throughout the year in our day to day work, and for the encouragement given to us.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .. .. .	857
Population .. .. .	1,854
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to the Rate Books) ..	598
Rateable Value .. .. .	£10,279
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£ 39. 10. Od.

## EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) .. ..	25	14	11
(Illegitimate) . . . .	3	3	-
Total .. ..	28	17	11
STILL BIRTHS .. .. .	Nil	-	-
DEATHS .. .. .	22	16	6
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES ..	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE .. .. .	Nil		

## COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1953

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	15.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	15.5
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) Nil	
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	0.35
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	11.9
Death Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) . . .	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	26.8

## PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	4
Measles	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children who were primarily immunised against diphtheria in the 12 months ended 31st December, 1953, and those who were given a reinforcing injection :-

Age at date of final injection.				Reinforcing injections.
Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	
10	11	2	23	
				46



## TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1953 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of ten males and thirteen females who normally reside within the district.

During the year two new cases were notified, both on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the same period two names were restored to the Register following return from other districts, one case recovered and one left the district.

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I am indebted to Mr. S.D. Crowle, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement.

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## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

### WATER SUPPLY.

A report on the need for improvements and the extension of the Council's present system has been received from the Council's Consulting Engineer and consideration has been given to the recommendations contained therein.

### Water Samples.

29 samples were taken during the year.

17 of these were from the town supply, of which 16 were found to be satisfactory. In the other instance contamination was slight and the degree of chlorination was increased.

Of the 12 samples taken from private supplies 5 proved to be unsatisfactory. The persons concerned were advised regarding appropriate action

### Connections to mains.

Total number of dwellings connected to the mains	584
" " " " supplied by standpipes	20
Number of connections to mains during 1953.	4

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year a new screening tank has been constructed and it is hoped that it will be brought into use during the early part of 1954. This new tank will facilitate maintenance and the standard of the effluent should improve slightly.

However, the works are still overloaded and require many improvements before the effluent can be expected to comply with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Weekly collection of refuse is in operation throughout the area, except at some trade premises where collection is twice weekly.

All refuse passes through an incinerator before final disposal.

## RODENT CONTROL.

Arrangements exist between the New Radnor R.D.C. and Kington U.D.C. for the joint employment of a Rodent Operator.

During the year the Council's sewers, sewerage works, and refuse tip were treated regularly.

Domestic buildings were also treated; and, in all, 168 infestations were dealt with.

## FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

### INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	26	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	24	71	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	30	97	-	-

### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
Unsuitable or defective	3	-	-	3	-
TOTAL	4	1	-	3	-

## HOUSING

The eight new Council bungalows are almost completed and it is expected that they will be ready for occupation early in the New Year.

In addition to the above, six houses were completed by private persons and are either occupied or ready for occupation.

Nine houses were represented as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense. No demolition orders were made, but the Council accepted written undertakings from the owners that they would not relet until the houses are rendered fit. In one case proposals for reconditioning the house have been received.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk.

Seven samples were submitted for Biological Examination. The results were satisfactory.

There are five retail purveyors of milk within the district. All but one of these are producer/retailers, having no dairy premises within the Urban area. The other dealer receives milk already bottled. Empty bottles are returned to the producer for cleansing. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

### Food Inspection

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of the following foods voluntarily surrendered by private traders.

19	Tins	of	Evaporated Milk.				
6	"	"	Condensed Milk.				
1	"	"	Cream.				
150	"	"	Mixed Fruit	160	lbs.	15	ozs.
44	"	"	Cooked Meats.	59	"	8	"
8	"	"	Fish	5	"	6	"
53	"	"	Mixed Vegetables	52	"	6	"
21	"	"	Cheese Spread.				
2	Boxes	of	Processed Cheese.				
71	lbs.	of	Cheshire Cheese.				
18	Pork	Pies.					
70	lbs.	of	Pork sausage.				
132	lbs.	of	Beef	"			
12	lbs.	of	Cooked Ham.				

All condemned foodstuffs are taken to the Council's incinerator and burnt.

### Food Premises

Total number of Food Premises (including public houses) 47

Total number of Inspections .. .. . 168

Four premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for the preparation and sale of sausages and sausage meat etc.

Six premises are registered under this same Section for the storage and sale of Ice Cream. In the main the ice cream is pre-packed and only rarely are there any faults to find.



Two written notices were served asking for improvements. These have now been effected.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses within the area. All meat is supplied from the slaughterhouse at Leominster. Butcher's shops are inspected regularly and have been found to be satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

There are six bakehouses within the area.

Twenty-six inspections were made throughout the year. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

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